



**For Immediate Release  
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**STATE ANNOUNCES LONG-TERM LEASE FOR  
PORAZZO MEMORIAL SKATING RINK IN EAST BOSTON**

Today, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced the signing of a new long-term lease agreement for the state-owned Porazzo Memorial Skating Rink in East Boston. The rink will be operated by the Facility Management Corporation (FMC) as part of DCR's plan to improve its rinks over the coming years. Under the terms of the lease, FMC will bear the cost of repairs and improvement to the facility for the next 20 years.

"These public-private partnerships represent a step forward for our rinks," said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. "This long-term lease is an opportunity to offer improved service and facilities, and maintain the rink as a public facility that will provide affordable recreation for the community."

FMC will begin operating the Porazzo Memorial Skating Rink on December 16, 2005, under a 20-year lease with the Commonwealth. "We're excited by the opportunity. The facility has great potential," said Rob McBride, President of FMC. He also praised DCR's long-term rink leasing program: "It improves public service, while keeping DCR involved. In the end, taxpayers are the winners."

"The Porazzo Rink has long been considered the lifeblood of youth activities in East Boston," said Senate President Robert E. Travaglini. "After an extended struggle to secure the rink's long-term future, it's my hope that this lease will ensure the Porazzo Rink continues to be a viable recreation outlet for the hundreds of families it now serves."

DCR anticipates a smooth transition to FMC management as patrons will continue to use the rink as they have in the past and fees will remain unchanged this season. The lease includes numerous terms that will ensure quality service for the rink users:

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- \$2 million in capital improvements will be made to the building and infrastructure, such as a new ice slab, new boards and glass, a new roof, and more.
- The rink will be open a minimum of nine months per year (up from six months per year).
- A minimum of 12 hours of public skating per week will be offered throughout the season (previously only offered from Thanksgiving through Christmas).
- .5% of gross annual revenues will be donated to a community fund for rink users and families, to be used for scholarships, equipment for underprivileged skaters, and more.
- DCR will have final approval of fees for ice rental and public skating.

Porazzo Memorial Skating Rink is the most recent DCR-owned rink to have its management transferred to a municipality or private management partner. Similar agreements were tendered this spring for urban rinks in Arlington, Cambridge, Canton, Everett, Lynn, Newton, Revere, and Waltham. To date, this leasing program has resulted in 20- to 25-year leases at 26 of DCR's 40 skating rinks. Through an open and competitive bidding process, these arrangements have proven successful and have resulted in increased hours of operation and improved conditions at these rinks. In the last fiscal year alone, \$1.8 million in capital improvements were made to DCR-owned rinks by third party operators.

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